UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

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## THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council expresses satisfaction at progress in implementation of Lusaka Protocol, but remains concerned about delays in Angolan peace process.

* Security Council welcomes entry into force of Bosnian cease-fire agreement; expresses concern at reports of population movements and ethnic cleansing in certain areas.

* General Assembly gives observer status to Central American Integration System; acts to strengthen ties with Economic Cooperation Organization.

* Administrative and Budgetary Committee continues general debate on Secretary-General's proposed budget for 1996-1997.

* Disarmament and International Security Committee to begin general debate on range of disarmament initiatives next week.

* Human Rights Committee to consider reports from United Kingdom, Estonia, Sweden and Afghanistan during fifty-fifth session.

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The Security Council today expressed satisfaction at the progress in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. In a statement by its President, Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), the Council said it was encouraged by the recent meetings between the President of Angola, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, and the leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Jonas Savimbi. Those meetings provided important reassurance to the international community. It also welcomed the ongoing deployment of United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) support units, and stressed the importance of an independent UNAVEM radio.

However, the Council expressed concern at delays in the peace process, particularly in respect of quartering of UNITA and the rapid reaction police, demining, disarmament, the return of the Angolan Armed Forces to barracks and the formation of the new armed forces, as well as the repatriation of mercenaries. It underscored the peril that might result from further delays.

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It also expressed deep concern at allegations of renewed laying of mines and demanded that all parties refrain from such actions.

The Council emphasized that continuing cooperation between the parties was essential if a sustained cessation of hostilities were to take hold. In that regard, it called on the parties to refrain from troop movements or military activities that might create tension or lead to renewed hostilities. It further emphasized that post-peace-keeping elements could make an important contribution to a viable long-term peace. It noted the linkage between political and economic well-being and the need to ensure that displaced people and refugees were able to return to their places of origin.

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In a second statement by President Gambari, the Council welcomed the entry into force of the cease-fire agreement between the Bosnian parties of 5 October. It demanded that all parties fully comply with the agreement and refrain from any military activity that could jeopardize the peace process. The Council expressed deep concern at any operation that provoked large-scale movements of population detrimental to the peace process and a final and fair settlement. It was particularly concerned about reports related to the movements of the displaced population in the areas of Sanski Most and Mrkonjic Grad.

The Council reiterated its condemnation of all practices of ethnic cleansing, and demanded their immediate cessation. It urged the Bosnian parties to respect fully the rights of all communities, including their right to remain where they were or to return to their homes in safety. The Council was particularly concerned about reports of ethnic cleansing in the Banja Luka and Prijedor areas, especially about reports that non-Serb men and boys of draft age were being taken away by Bosnian Serb and other paramilitary forces. It demanded that those persons be immediately released.

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Acting without a vote, the General Assembly today invited the Central American Integration System to participate in its work as an observer. In another resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization, to promote cooperation between the secretariats of the two Organizations. It further urged increased consultation between the United Nations system and the Economic Cooperation Organization in the attainment of their objectives.

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